(b) The fear that the import of fish will adversely effect the local fishing industry is misplaced. The total import duty on fish, Crustaceans etc. has been raised from 21.16% to 44.04% w.e.f. 1.4.2000 and this in itself acts as a deterrent on large scale imports. Currently, the import of fish is limited, and is generally meant for processing for re-export. The processing infrastructure available in the country is utilized to the extent of about 20 per cent only, and hence the current import of fish encourages employment generation, and higher export earnings.

Profit to farmers

†1246. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the farmers do not get sufficient profit for their produce even now;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to implement some new agriculture policy to help the farmers get proper profit for their produce;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) National Agriculture Policy has been placed on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 2000.

(d) Does not arise.

Modernisation in vegetable production

1247. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra State is facing shortage of vegetables resulting in its high cost, if so , what steps Government propose to take to modernise the methods of production of vegetables at lesser cost;

(b) whether Government plan to bring such production activities under agro industries to take up production in large scale in Maharashtra; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.